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MR. DALLAS'S LETTER.

Our readers will, we hope, perfectly understand that, in transferring to our columns from the "Union"—in which paper it first attracted our attention—the Letter of Mr. DALLAS on the Isthmus question, we do not adopt any part or particle of the Hon. Vice President's apparent predilection for War, either in the abstract, or in the actual, as it now exists between this country and the neighboring Republic. We dissent from his opinion, particularly, as to the value of "military glory," considering the passion for it as one of the most fatal political diseases with which a Government or People—and especially a Republican Government and People—can be infected. Nor must we, by our silence on the point, subject ourselves to the imputation of tacitly assenting that the vindication of the National honor required this war; or that the tenderest regard for that honor can or could have suggested to any well-organized mind a necessity for the war. Nor do we conceive the acquisition of present power, either for party purposes at home or for the purposes of national aggrandizement abroad, as furnishing any fit motive or object for either this war or any other. For the national security, no man will hazard his reputation for sanity by maintaining that this war was necessary, or even proper. And, as for limits, widened to the extent which the Administration and Mr. Dallas are supposed to desire, the shirt of Nessus was not, in our judgment, a greater curse to the wearer than such an extension of limits would be to the People of the States and Territories which compose this Union.

With this protestation, we are induced to spread the Letter of Mr. DALLAS before our readers by the great interest of the commercial question which it involves, and the ability and research which he has bestowed upon it. We trust, however, in reference to the right of way which it is proposed to negotiate for in making a treaty of Peace with Mexico, that the President is not about to make this grant of soil and jurisdiction *a sine qua non*; for, among all the causes or objects which have led to our invasion of Mexico with an army of some thirty thousand men, we have never before heard or seen the making a ship-canal across the Isthmus presented as the most important one.

INDEPENDENT OPINION.

We have already had occasion more than once to remark, that opposition to the origin and objects of the Mexican War is by no means confined to that large and respected portion of our countrymen who are classed as Whigs. It is to be found in all classes of men, under whatever political denomination they have heretofore ranged themselves.

A remarkable case of independent opinion, and flinging off party shackles, in regard to this great question, has just come under our notice, in the case of Mr. SYKES, late Editor of a Democratic paper at Columbia, in the State of Tennessee, who attended a Whig State Convention at Nashville, and, in a public address, gave his reasons why he should, at the ensuing election, support the Whig candidate for Governor of that State. In the course of this address, Mr. SYKES said that he had not changed his principles, but he believed that the Whigs are nearer the true Democratic ground in relation to several of the new (and some of them momentous) issues that have been sprung upon the country than the Administration, and therefore he goes with the Whigs in opposing the Administration of the General Government. He said, further, among other things, (as reported in the Columbia Observer), the following, which fully bear us out in the belief we have heretofore expressed, that opposition to the measures of this Administration is more deeply rooted than the ground upon which parties have heretofore divided:

"It was time (Mr. S. said) that every true lover of the Union—every true friend of the South, should speak out plainly on this momentous subject. The nation is truly in a crisis: dangers threaten us on all sides: we have closed the first volume of our history under the Constitution—the second is now opened: a new era is presented—an era of conquest: no mortal foresight can foresee what will be written in it."

He said "he believed that if the matter had been managed with ordinary prudence, our difficulties with Mexico might have been amicably and honorably settled. The war was owing to the mismanagement of the President. The President assumed to do that which, under the constitution, he had no right or power to do, to decide a question of this disputed boundary. If the army had remained at Corpus Christi, and Mr. Slidell had not been sent to Mexico until the settlement of the Oregon question, in all probability there would have been no war with Mexico, and this nation might have obtained more from Mexico without incurring the stupendous debt the war has brought upon the country, than she will acquire by the war: he had been convinced by the discussions in Congress that the President was responsible for all the consequences of the war."

"To give the President the right to make war, and then to denounce all who do not sanction his course as 'enemies to their country'—as the 'Mexican party'—as 'friends, compatriots, and fellow-soldiers of Santa Anna and Apudita,' would be to convert our Republic into a Despotism."

Mr. Sykes said "he did not agree with the Whigs in many of their views upon national questions: he was with them in their opposition to Executive usurpation; he believed that it was necessary for the Whigs to come into power, to save the country from the awful consequences of the deep misrule of this Administration."

Mr. WEBSTER left this city yesterday morning, accompanied by his Lady, on his long-projected tour through the Southern States to New Orleans, and thence up the Mississippi to the Western country, intending to return home by the Lakes.

While Mr. Levi Slade was riding on horseback in Chelsea, (Mass.) about eight o'clock on Thursday evening, his horse was struck by lightning and instantly killed. Mr. S. was not harmed.

PURPOSES OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

We subjoin another Letter from the Washington Correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger; from which our readers will learn that another proposition is about being made to, or entertained from, the Government of Mexico, for the conclusion of the War, on terms somewhat more rational than heretofore reported by the Administration papers as the conditions on which alone the President of the United States and his Council would consent to make a peace. From the evidence afforded by this letter of pretensions somewhat lowered on the part of the Administration, and from corroborating circumstances, we are now induced to believe that the Executive will be content with the annexation to the United States of something less than half of the Mexican territory, and that the cession of a few provinces only will be insisted upon as the price of the cessation of arms on our part. We are thankful for even so much concession to the spirit of peace, and we may add, to the spirit and intelligence of this People, which, to their honor be it spoken, we believe to be opposed to the whole scheme of conquest—of acquisition of territory from Mexico by the mere right of the strongest, or in any other way than by negotiation, and for an equivalent.

We trust that our readers will feel, as we do, that the circumstances which the Administration letter-writers dwell upon with such evident satisfaction, that Mexico is too weak on the one hand, and too popular in her institutions on the other, to excite the sympathy of older nations in her behalf, are such as it would be most disreputable for this Government to act upon in the present most unhappy state of relations with that Republic. The very statement of the helpless and desolate condition of Mexico as an argument for exacting from her such terms as none but a ruthless and barbarian Conqueror would impose, are absolutely revolting to the moral sense and sickening to humanity. The same idea, however, as is so broadly suggested in this letter, is one which, in substance, but with less freedom from any thing like disguise or circumlocution, has been already presented at different times by different organs of the Administration: by one of which, it will be remembered, we were told, not long ago, that peace ought not to be made without compelling Mexico to pay all the expenses of our war by a sacrifice of her territory, at least until after the next Presidential Election!

We have only time to add, that there is one part of this letter—which speaks of a late interview between the Secretary of State and the very estimable gentleman who represents at Washington the Emperor of Russia—which, though a material part, we should have suppressed in copying, but for the conviction that the writer of it is in free and friendly intercourse with the Administration, and would of course not have communicated to the Ledger any thing which, in their opinion, ought not to be made public.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PUBLIC LEDGER.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 20, 1847.

Great activity prevailed all last week in the State Department, notwithstanding the absence of Mr. Taylor, the chief clerk, who has left here for New Orleans to arrange some matter in which he feels deeply interested. Some ascribe his absence to a secret diplomatic mission connected with the present negotiations for peace with Mexico. Another of peace will undoubtedly be made, or is on the point of being dispatched, at this very moment, and the better opinion seems to be that it will be accepted by Santa Anna, notwithstanding the discourteous tone of his inaugural. Meanwhile, I have reason to believe that instructions have been forwarded to Generals Scott and Taylor to press forward on the capital with all possible dispatch, so as to dispel the illusion about the power of resistance which still holds the minds of so many Mexicans captive. Mexico must be made to feel the whole weight of the war, not only for the purpose of obtaining immediate peace, but for the sake of making that peace a long and lasting one. If we are, by the obstinacy of the Mexicans, driven to another fall campaign, then it is to be hoped that heavy contributions will be levied on all the towns captured from the enemy, and that the Mexicans will be made to pay the expenses of the war, not at its close, but as we go along.

The sympathy for Mexico on the part of neutral nations is, it would seem, at its lowest ebb; and it is quite certain that that distracted and unfortunate country has lost even the good will of those who might have a direct interest of protecting her. England, since the affair of the Spanish marriages, would sooner see Mexico entirely swallowed up by the United States than give room even to the slightest contingency of increasing, at some future day, the power of France and Spain. The idea, given out by French writers and politicians of the school of Mr. Guizot, that France is destined to hold that position among the Romanic races which Spain formerly occupied; that she is to place herself at the head of Catholicism in both hemispheres; and, by that means, resist the future encroachments of the Anglo-Saxons, has not failed to make a proper impression in England, which, joined to her dependence on our market and our provisions, has rendered Great Britain not only more tractable and unbending, but disposed for a lasting, and, as I verily believe, sincere friendship. Great Britain has, no doubt, by this time given up all idea of establishing herself on this continent as an American Power, and had she foreseen our rapid seizure of California, would hardly have disputed to us the few acres in Oregon which very high led to an interruption of our peaceful relations with her.

As to France, she will not and cannot, at this moment, venture to meddle in American affairs. She is isolated in Europe, and must guard against contingencies.

Russia is the only Power of the Holy Alliance which has recognized the independence of Mexico; but she has done so merely for commercial purposes, and is neither disposed nor capable to oppose the least resistance to our annexing the whole country to our Union, if we think proper to do so.

As to Russia, the Power which, though apparently opposed to us in the form of her Government, has a great natural interest in our progress and posterity—the declaration of her representative here in Washington, Chevalier de Boursico, is both good-natured and striking. "Russia," observed his Excellency the other day, in a friendly interview with the distinguished Secretary of State, "Russia has nothing to do with Mexico. Russia has never recognized her, and cares nothing for her fate. Do with her what you please, gentlemen; put her in your pocket, if it give you any pleasure; Russia will not object to it."

Austria is similarly situated, and though not using the same frank and manly language as Russia, is equally free to pronounce her utter indifference to the fate of Mexico. This puts an end to the European coalition against the United States, attempted in 1845, and establishes our unlimited sway over this continent. Will Mexico, under these circumstances, persist in being dismembered by us, and seeing her population driven back by the enterprising lackwaddens of the Mississippi valley?

Should Mexico listen to the voice of reason, it is not altogether improbable that Mr. BUCHANAN himself may take a trip South to accelerate the conclusion of peace. I believe there is every disposition on the part of the President to confide the whole negotiations to the hands of the Secretary of State.

OBSERVER.

INTERESTING TO VOLUNTEERS.

In inserting the following General Order, providing for the settlement of claims by discharged volunteer soldiers, for bounty land or Treasury scrip, we are requested to invite attention to its provisions. As the just claims of the volunteer can only be established and settled on furnishing the requisite evidence in such cases, the volunteer officers should make themselves fully acquainted with the regulation, and be governed accordingly:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 18.
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 22, 1847.

1. In order to secure, without delay or inconvenience to the volunteer soldier, who shall receive an honorable discharge, or who shall have been killed or died of wounds, (or his heirs, &c., as the case may be), the bounty land or Treasury scrip, provided by the 9th section of the act of February 11, 1847, it is necessary that the following instructions be duly observed by the officers concerned.

2. Volunteers mustered out of service on the expiration of their term.

The rolls for this purpose must contain all the names which have been borne on the previous muster-rolls, from the first or the one mustered into service, including all who have died, been captured, discharged, or have deserted since the enrollment of the company, with appropriate remarks opposite the name of each respectively. All absentees must be satisfactorily accounted for by explanations recorded in the column of remarks. This roll, containing the information above required, will be prepared and completed at the time that the company may be discharged, and be forwarded by the officer charged with mustering it out of service, direct to the Adjutant General's Office, War Department—endorsed "For the Commissioner of Pensions, Bounty Land Bureau."

3. Individual discharges of Volunteers before the expiration of their term, in consequence of wounds received or sickness incurred in the course of the service.

The Certificates of Disability and Discharge in such cases will be given in duplicate, and, must, in every instance, set forth the origin and nature of the wound received or sickness incurred in the course of the service, agreeably to the established printed form, dated April 22, 1847. One copy of this Certificate will be forwarded by the officer signing the discharge of the volunteer soldier, direct to the Adjutant General of the Army—endorsed "For the Commissioner of Pensions, Bounty Land Bureau."

4. The Commissioner of Pensions, under the direction of the Secretary of War, being charged by law with the business of investigating claims for Bounty Land, &c., provided by the munificence of the Government, commanders of volunteer regiments and companies will see the necessity of preparing and forwarding, as herein required, the requisite muster-roll, or certificates, as the case may be, being the necessary evidence of service and of honorable discharge to enable the faithful volunteer, or his heirs, &c. to receive from the War Department the certificate or warrant for the bounty of one hundred and sixty acres, or the Treasury scrip for one hundred dollars, as provided by law.

5. The "Surgeon's Certificate of ordinary disability," in cases of invalid soldiers of the regular army, will heretofore be forwarded in duplicate; one of which to be endorsed "For the Commissioner of Pensions, Bounty Land Bureau."

By order: R. JONES, Adjutant General.

The New Orleans papers of the 20th ultimo announce the decease of EDWARD D. WHITE, of Louisiana; formerly its Governor, and twice elected to represent the New Orleans district in Congress. He died, after a lingering illness, from an affection of the lungs.

The Legislature of the State being in session, and the death of Mr. WHITE being announced, Resolutions were adopted that the Members do wear mourning for him for thirty days, and attend his funeral.

The Tallahassee Sentinel announces the death, on the 15th ultimo, at his residence in Jefferson county, Florida, of Prince CHARLES LOUIS NAPOLEON ACHILLE MURAT, "the son of Joachim and Caroline Bonaparte Murat, King and Queen of Naples—the former the celebrated Marshal of Napoleon, the mirror of chivalry and valor, the latter a sister of the immortal Emperor. After the expulsion of his family from Italy Prince MURAT resided in Austria until 1821, when he removed to this country, and subsequently selected a place of residence in Florida, where he has since spent the most of his days in all the quiet and retirement of a country gentleman." He was buried at Tallahassee on the 17th instant with Masonic honors. Sic transit, &c.

INDIANA BONDS.—The Commissioner of that State announces that he is prepared, or will be at the proper time, to carry out the judicious agreement between the bondholders and the State, which is likely to be so beneficial to both.

GEN. BUTLER, OF KENTUCKY.—There have been statements in the newspapers that this distinguished officer agreed with those who urged a withdrawal of our troops within a certain line, and to hold and fortify that line until Mexico was prepared for peace. A letter in the New York Globe states:

"Gen. Wm. O. BUTLER, one of the heroes of Monterey, is still in Washington, and passes a good portion of each day at the Executive mansion or the War Department. The Administration respects much confidence in the judgment and capacity of Gen. Butler, and he is decidedly in favor of going ahead, and not acting upon the defensive."

GEN. BUTLER, when in New Orleans, expressed his opinions to those who spoke to him on the subject, in favor of holding and fortifying the line, wherever that might be, which the Government had determined should be the definite boundary between the two countries, and not to advance beyond it.

GEN. B. made no secret of this opinion, but gave it openly and freely to all who might be present in the circle, whenever the subject was introduced.

(New Orleans Bulletin.)

MAJOR W. W. S. BLISS.—This officer, whose name is now so favorably known over the Union, is a native of New Hampshire, and he graduated at West Point in July, 1833, with considerable distinction. In 1834, during the Indian troubles, he was ordered to Fort Mitchell, Alabama, but shortly after he returned to West Point, where he remained until 1840, discharging the duties of assistant professor of mathematics, for which he was eminently qualified. Having been appointed in 1839 assistant adjutant general, he was attached to the staff of Gen. Taylor, then stationed upon the Arkansas frontier. In that capacity he has since acted, rendering the most laborious and important services and enjoying the unreserved confidence of the General. His gallantry in all the late battles in Mexico has especially signaled his name, and entitled him to the gratitude of his country. But, although he has been thus highly distinguished in action, Major Bliss is chiefly regarded in the army on account of his literary attainments, being one of the best writers of the day, and a finished German, French, and Spanish scholar. Thus gifted, and in the prime of life, he is in all probability destined for yet brighter honors. He who was but a poor orphan boy when he entered the Military Academy, and who is now, if we mistake not, without a single relative in the world, may become one of the most honored of our countrymen.—Louis Jour.

THE CLAY COMMEMORATION.

Through some accident or misarrangement we have never received the authorized or any other satisfactory account of the Public Entertainment lately held at New York in honor of the Birth-day of HENRY CLAY, nor any paper containing the letters read upon the occasion from absent invited guests. We have, however, casually fallen upon one of those letters, which, as it is from an eminent citizen of a neighboring State, wherein this paper has a wide circulation, we think it due to him and to our readers to place in our columns:

BALTIMORE, APRIL 5, 1847.
GENTLEMEN: Your invitation in behalf of the Young Men of the city of New York to the festival with which they propose to celebrate the birth-day of HENRY CLAY, I have received with unalloyed pleasure, and I hasten to say that if I can possibly attend it I shall not fail to do so. My professional engagements, however, may prevent me, though they shall not if I can with any propriety postpone them.

The man whom you speak of to honor must now stand, if possible, even higher in the confidence and affections of the American people than at any other period in his great and patriotic career. Who does not feel, who does not know, that the blood now spilling in a foreign war would have been saved if CLAY's councils had ruled the nation; and saved, not only without dishonor, but by placing the country in a position infinitely more elevated than it now occupies?

Our present condition, lamentable as it is in many respects, is, it is true, almost lost sight of in the splendor of our military triumphs, and the pride with which they fill every American breast. The fame of the nation has alone been saved from the blunders and injustice of the Administration by the unflinching skill and matchless gallantry of TAYLOR, and his officers and men. The victories he and they have won have rescued—nothing else could have rescued—the President and his advisers from a load of responsibility and disgrace that more miserable party tactics would in vain have enabled them to evade. Let that master stroke—what masterpiece of diplomacy, "THE FACT OF SANTA ANNA BEING PERMITTED TO SLIP INTO MEXICO" at the instance and by the orders of Mr. President POLK, give the answer. Let the disgusting, degrading attempts during the last session of Congress to the blame and injustice of the Administration, by the unflinching skill and matchless gallantry of TAYLOR, and his officers and men. The victories he and they have won have rescued—nothing else could have rescued—the President and his advisers from a load of responsibility and disgrace that more miserable party tactics would in vain have enabled them to evade. Let that master stroke—what masterpiece of diplomacy, "THE FACT OF SANTA ANNA BEING PERMITTED TO SLIP INTO MEXICO" at the instance and by the orders of Mr. President POLK, give the answer. Let the disgusting, degrading attempts during the last session of Congress to the blame and injustice of the Administration, by the unflinching skill and matchless gallantry of TAYLOR, and his officers and men. 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